



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

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May 12, 2004

By electronic filing:

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Ex Parte Presentation**
CG Docket No. 98-67

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 7, the K. Dane Snowden, Chief of the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Tom Chandler of the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) Disability Rights Office and Amelia Brown of the CGB met with the following individuals:

Cary Barbin	TAP-Gallaudet University
Nancy Bloch	NAD
Kelby Brick	NAD
Larry Brick	Consumer Advocate
Linda Gustafson	California PUC
J.G. Harrington	Dow, Lohnes & Albertson, PLLC
Cheryl Heppner	ALDA & DHHCAN
David Johnson	Sorenson VRS
Brenda Kelly-Frey	MD Relay
George Lyon, Jr.	Lukas, Nacew, Gutierrez & Sachs
Diana McKittrick	CCADH
Ronald O Bray	Hands On
Karen Pelz-Strauss	KPS Consulting
Mark Seeger	CSD
Paul Singleton	DHHIG
Claude Stout	TDI
David Weiss	California DDTP

There was a review of the FCC summit on IP-enabled services and then the meeting focused on Video Relay Services (VRS). A particular emphasis was on the meaning of Functional Equivalence and how VRS has enabled many deaf and hard of hearing people to experience "a normal conversation on the phone" with anyone, either a person with a disability or a person without a disability.

Mr. Snowden and Mr. Chandler were presented with a list of VRS issues and concerns. There were extensive discussion on the need and feasibility of making VRS available on a full 24/7 basis. There were also discussion on whether the VRS reimbursement rate was adequate to allow VRS to satisfy the Functional Equivalence requirement. There were also some discussions on future funding for VRS and the obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Sincerely,

Kelby Brick
Director, Law and Advocacy